

CLAIMS**What is claimed is:**

1. An apparatus that enables a telephony device of a party in communication with a mobile device to leave a voice mail for a mobile device user in the event that
5 the user's mobile device is dropped during a call between said party and said mobile device user, the apparatus comprising:
voice message processing circuitry in communication with cell equipment of at least one cell of a wireless network, the voice message processing circuitry determining if said user's mobile device has been dropped during a call between said
10 mobile device user and said party, wherein if the voice message processing circuitry determines that said user's mobile device has been dropped during the call, the voice message processing circuitry automatically causes said telephony device of said party to be connected to a voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user so that said party can leave a voice mail message for the dropped mobile device
15 user.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the voice message processing circuitry is comprised at a mobile switching center (MSC) of the wireless network, the MSC being in communication with said at least one cell of a wireless network.
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3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein, before the call is dropped, said party is communicating with the mobile device user via a landline telephony device that is in communication with the wireless network via a communication link between the MSC of the wireless network and a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), and
25 wherein when said mobile device user is dropped from the call, the MSC causes the telephony device of the party to be connected to said voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user so that said party can leave a voice message for the dropped mobile device user.
- 30 4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein, before the call is dropped, said party is communicating with the dropped mobile device user over the wireless network via a mobile telephony device of said party that is in communication with said cell equipment of said at least one cell of the wireless network, and wherein when said mobile device user is dropped from the call, the MSC causes the party's mobile

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telephony device to be connected to the voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user so that said party can leave a voice message for the dropped mobile device user.

5 5. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein when the call is dropped, the MSC causes said party to be notified that the call has been dropped and that said party is being connected to the voice mail system associated with said dropped mobile device user so that said party can leave a voice message for said dropped mobile device user.

10 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the call is dropped, and after said party leaves a voice message for the dropped mobile device user, the voice message processing circuitry causes a signal to be transmitted to the cell equipment, which transmits a notification intended for said user's mobile device to inform said dropped mobile device user that said party has left a message for said dropped mobile device
15 user.

7. A wireless network that enables a telephony device of a party in communication with a mobile device of a mobile device user to leave a voice mail for the mobile device user in the event that the user's mobile device is dropped during a call between said party and said mobile device user, the apparatus comprising:
at least a first mobile switching center (MSC);
cell equipment of at least a first cell of a first wireless network, the cell equipment of the first cell being in communication with the MSC; and
voice processing circuitry, the voice message processing circuitry determining if said user's mobile device has been dropped during a call between said user and said party, wherein if the voice message processing circuitry determines that said user's mobile device has been dropped during the call, the voice message processing circuitry automatically causes said telephony device of said party to be connected to a voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user so that said party
25 can leave a voice mail message for the dropped mobile device user.
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8. The wireless network of claim 7, further comprising:
at least a second mobile switching center (MSC); and

- cell equipment of at least a second cell of a second wireless network, the cell equipment of said second cell being in communication with the second MSC, the second MSC being in communication with the first MSC, the voice message processing circuitry being comprised at the second MSC, wherein before the call is dropped, said party is communicating with the cell equipment of said second cell via a mobile telephony device of said party, and said user is communicating with the cell equipment of the first cell of the first wireless network via said user's mobile device, and wherein when said voice message processing circuitry determines that said user's mobile device has been dropped during a call between said user and said party, the first MSC informs the second MSC of the dropped call and the second MSC automatically causes the party's mobile telephony device to be connected to a voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user so that said party can leave a voice mail message for the dropped mobile device user.
- 15 9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the voice message processing circuitry is comprised at said cell equipment of said at least a first cell.
- 10 10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the voice message processing circuitry is comprised at a base station controller that interfaces the first MSC to said cell equipment of said at a first cell.
- 20 11. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the voice message processing circuitry is comprised at the first MSC, and wherein, before the call is dropped, said party is communicating with the mobile device user via a landline telephony device that is in communication with the first wireless network via a communication link between the first MSC of the first wireless network and a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), and wherein when said mobile device user is dropped from the call, the first MSC causes the landline telephony device of the party to be connected to the voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user.
- 25 30 12. The wireless network of claim 7, wherein the voice message processing circuitry is comprised at the first MSC, and wherein, before the call is dropped, said party and said mobile device user are communicating with each other over the first wireless network, said party using a mobile telephony device that is in communication

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with said cell equipment of said at least one cell of the wireless network to communicate with said user's mobile device, and wherein when said mobile device user is dropped from the call, the first MSC causes the party's mobile telephony device to be connected to the voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user.

5 13. The wireless network of claim 7, wherein when the call is dropped, the first
MSC causes said party to be notified that the call has been dropped and that said party
is being switched to the dropped mobile device user's voice mail system so that said
10 party can leave a voice message for the dropped mobile device user.

14. The wireless network of claim 7, wherein when the call is dropped, and after
said party leaves a voice message for the dropped mobile device user, the first MSC
causes a signal to be transmitted to the cell equipment of the first cell, which transmits
15 a notification intended for the user's mobile device to inform said mobile device user
that said party has left a message for said mobile device user.

15. A method that enables a telephony device of a party in communication with a
mobile device of a user of a wireless network to leave a voice mail for the mobile
20 device user in the event that the user's mobile device is dropped during a call between
said party and said mobile device user, the method comprising the steps of:
determining whether said user's mobile device has been dropped during a call
between said mobile device user and said party; and

if a determination is made that said user's mobile device has been dropped
25 during the call, automatically connecting said telephony device of said party to a
voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user so that said party
can leave a voice mail message for the dropped mobile device user.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein, before the call is dropped, said party is
30 communicating with the mobile device user via a landline telephony device that is in
communication with the wireless network via a communication link between the
MSC of the wireless network and a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), and
wherein the MSC performs the step of determining whether said user's mobile device
has been dropped, wherein if the MSC determines that said mobile device user has

been dropped from the call, the MSC automatically causes the party's landline telephony device to be connected to said voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user so that said party can leave a voice message for the dropped mobile device user.

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17. The method of claim 15, wherein, before the call is dropped, said party is communicating with the dropped mobile device user over the wireless network via a mobile telephony device that is in communication with said cell equipment of said at least one cell of the wireless network, the MSC performing the step of determining whether said user's mobile device has been dropped, wherein if the MSC determines that said mobile device user has been dropped from the call, the MSC causes the party's mobile telephony device to be connected to the voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user so that said party can leave a voice message for the dropped mobile device user.

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18. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:
if a determination is made that the call has been dropped, causing said party to be notified that the call has been dropped and that said party is being connected to the voice mail system associated with said dropped mobile device user so that said party can leave a voice message for said dropped mobile device user.

19. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

if a determination is made that the call has been dropped, and after said party leaves a voice message for the dropped mobile device user, transmitting a signal to the cell equipment, which transmits a notification intended for said user's mobile device to inform said dropped mobile device user that said party has left a message for said dropped mobile device user.

20. A computer program that enables a telephony device of a party in

30 communication with a mobile device of a user of a wireless network to leave a voice mail for a mobile device user in the event that the user's mobile device is dropped during a call between said party and said mobile device user, the computer program being embodied on a computer readable medium, the program comprising:

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- a first code segment, the first code segment determining whether said user's mobile device has been dropped during a call between said mobile device user and said party; and
- 5 a second code segment, wherein if the first code segment determines that said user's mobile device has been dropped during the call, the second code segment causes said telephony device of said party to be connected a voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user so that said party can leave a voice mail message for the dropped mobile device user.
- 10 21. The computer program of claim 20, wherein, before the call is dropped, said party is communicating with said user's mobile device via a landline telephony device that is in communication with the wireless network via a communication link between a mobile switching center (MSC) of the wireless network and a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), and wherein if the second code segment determines that 15 said mobile device user has been dropped from the call, the second code segment automatically causes the landline telephony device to be connected to said voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user so that said party can leave a voice message for the dropped mobile device user.
- 20 22. The computer program of claim 20, wherein, before the call is dropped, said party is communicating with the dropped mobile device user over the wireless network via a mobile telephony device of said party, the mobile telephony device being in communication with cell equipment of a cell of the wireless network, and wherein if said second code segment determines that said mobile device user has been 25 dropped from the call, the second code segment causes the party's mobile device to be connected to the voice mail system associated with the dropped mobile device user so that said party can leave a voice message for the dropped mobile device user.
23. The computer program of claim 20, further comprising a third code segment, 30 wherein if the second code segment determines that the call has been dropped, the third code segment causes said party to be notified that the call has been dropped and that said telephony device of said party is being connected to the voice mail system associated with said dropped mobile device user so that said party can leave a voice message for said dropped mobile device user.

2014PTO-04907005